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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ENANTIOMERICALLY ENRICHED COMPOUNDS

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(57) Abstract: Process for the preparation of enantiomerically enriched amino aldehydes and amino alcohols, wherein a corresponding enantiomerically enriched amino nitrile is subjected to hydrogenation in the presence of hydrogen, a hydrogenation catalyst, preferably a Pd-catalyst and a mineral acid. For the preparation of an amino aldehyde hydrogen preferably is present at a hydrogen-pressure between 0.1 and 2 MPa, in particular between 0.5 and 1 MPa. The amino aldehyde preferably is isolated in the form of a chemically and configurationally stable derivative. For the preparation of an amino alcohol, preferably at least during part of the hydrogenation hydrogen is present at a hydrogen-pressure between 2 and 10 MPa, in particular between 4 and 6 MPa. In a preferred embodiment the hydrogen-pressure initially is between 0.5 and 2 MPa and subsequently, after most of the nitrile starting material is converted, the hydrogen pressure is increased to a value between 2 and 10 MPa. The enantiomerically enriched nitrile starting material may a.o. be prepared by enzymatic resolution, classical resolution, resolution via preferential crystallization, diastereomeric synthesis, catalytic asymmetric synthesis or dehydratation of amino acid amides.